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 HONOLULU, HAWAII

**From:** Linda Elento [threestars@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 10:17 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** public testimony today 2p bill 15 section 7

Dear City Council:

WE SUPPORT USING FUNDS FOR RECREATION FOR OUR KEIKI WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO GO TO LEARN, PLAY, AND BE SUCCESSFUL.

The Parks & Recreation centers and programs are the only programs that our 9-year-old son has been able to participate in around our communities due to his disabilities including Down syndrome.

We have consistently experienced the recreation programs for over six years with the assistance of the Therapeutic Recreation office. The Department of Human Services nor the Department of Education had successfully included him in programs with regular/typically-developing children. Some private and non-profit organizations did not even call us back. The recreation centers are flexible and provide efficient and qualified assistance when required (and following federal/state laws for access which we appreciate greatly). We want to continue participating, as we see our son develop and grow and learn through the Parks and Recreation department--

Summer Fun at our public elementary schools  
 Swimming lessons with extra time and assistance  
 Tiny Tot and Sports Skills classes for preschoolers  
 Flag football, Sign Language, Arts classes after school

Thank you for continuing to provide these programs for children who are not able to go anywhere else for learning, fun and community activities.

Submitted by:

Linda Elento

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